

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 10/601,200  
Attorney Docket No.: Q76217

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. - 10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head, having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a liquid drop;

a wiping member, wiping an opening portion of the nozzle;

a carriage, mounted with the liquid ejecting head, and moving in a horizontal direction relative to the wiping member; ~~and~~

an inclined plate, mounted on the carriage and formed with an inclined face having a rising inclination as being far from the liquid ejecting head; and

a controller, stops a movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage for a predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the ~~liquid ejecting head~~ inclined plate after wiping the liquid ejecting head.

12. (canceled).

13. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11 wherein the wiping member is comprised of an elastic material;

wherein the wiping member has a wiping face for wiping the opening portion of the nozzle, the wiping face being inclined relative to the horizontal direction by a predetermined angle.

14. (currently amended): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member is moved relative to the carriage in a second horizontal direction substantially orthogonal to the horizontal direction after the movement of the wiping member is stopped for the predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the ~~liquid-ejecting head~~ inclined plate.

15. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member has a rectangular shape in a horizontal section; and

wherein a longitudinal direction of the rectangular shape of the wiping member is substantially in orthogonal to the horizontal direction.

16. (currently amended): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member is comprised of an elastic member;

wherein the wiping member is moved in a direction substantially orthogonal to a direction in which the wiping member is bent after the predetermined time period is passed in the state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the ~~liquid-ejecting head~~ inclined plate such that the wiping member is released from the press contact state.

17. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein a front end of the wiping member has a tapered shape.

18. (currently amended): A method for cleaning, comprising the steps of:  
providing a liquid ejecting head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a liquid drop;  
providing a carriage mounted with the liquid ejecting head;  
providing a wiping member;  
providing an inclined plate, mounted on the carriage and formed with an inclined face  
having a rising inclination as being far from the liquid ejecting head;  
moving the carriage in a horizontal direction relative to the wiping member;  
wiping an opening portion of the nozzle by the wiping member; and  
stopping a movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage for a predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the ~~liquid~~  
~~ejecting head~~inclined plate after the wiping step.

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): The cleaning method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the step of moving the wiping member relative to the carriage in a direction

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substantially orthogonal to the horizontal direction so that the wiping member is released from the state of being brought into press contact with the ~~liquid ejecting head~~ inclined plate.

21. (new): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the controller stops a movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage for a predetermined period of time in a state that the wiping member is bent and is pressed against the inclined plate after wiping the liquid ejecting head.

22. (new): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the inclined plate and the liquid ejecting head are separated with a clearance space.